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News Release



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SMALL GRAIN - SEPTEMBER 2011 COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The final 2011 **all wheat** production for Colorado, at 81.8 million bushels, was 24 percent lower than the production attained the previous year according to the Colorado Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistic Service, USDA. **Winter wheat** production was estimated at 78.0 million bushels, 26 percent below last year's crop of 105.8 million bushels. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 2.0 million acres, down from 2.35 million acres harvested last year. The average yield per acre for this year's crop was 39.0 bushels, 6.0 bushels below last year's record high yield of 45.0 bushels per acre. The area seeded last fall for this year's crop was estimated at 2.3 million acres. This year's **spring wheat** crop was estimated at 3.8 million bushels, up 54 percent from last year's crop. The average yield of 87.0 bushels per acre was 5.0 bushels below last year's record high of 92.0 bushels per acre. The area harvested for grain was set at 44,000 acres this year, up from 27,000 harvested in 2010. Producers seeded 45,000 acres to spring wheat compared with 28,000 last year.

Colorado's **barley** production in 2011 was estimated at 7.9 million bushels, down 5 percent from a year ago. The average yield per acre, at 126.0 bushels, was down 7.0 bushels from last year. The area harvested for grain was estimated at 63,000 acres, unchanged from 2010. Area seeded to barley totaled 66,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from last year. Production of **oats** in 2011 totaled 700,000 bushels, up 20 percent from the production attained a year ago. Average yield was placed at 70.0 bushels per acre, 5 bushels above year's results. Area harvested for grain was estimated at 10,000 acres, up 1,000 acres from last year. Acres seeded to oats totaled 45,000 in 2011, down 10,000 acres from 2010.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

All wheat production totaled 2.01 billion bushels in 2011, down 9 percent from 2010. Grain area totaled 45.7 million acres, down 4 percent from the previous year. The United States yield is 43.9 bushels per acre, down 2.4 bushels from the previous year's record high but still ranks as the fifth highest on record. The levels of production and changes from 2010 by type are winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, up 1 percent; other spring wheat, 462 million bushels, down 25 percent; Durum wheat, 51.9 million bushels, down 51 percent. Planted and harvested acres were down from 2010 in most of the major **Hard Red Winter** (HRW) growing States. Persistently hot, dry conditions in this growing area, particularly in Texas and Oklahoma, resulted in acreage and yield reductions from the previous year in most States. Harvested area of **Other Spring Wheat** totaled 12.1 million acres, down 2 percent from August and down 10 percent from last year. The United States yield is 38.3 bushels per acre, down 4.2 bushels from August and 7.8 bushels lower than last year. Yields are below the previous year's level in all States except Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, where record high yields were achieved in all three States.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 54.0 million bushels, down 33 percent from 2010. Yield is estimated at 57.5 bushels per acre, down 6.8 bushels from the previous year. Harvested area, at 940 thousand acres, is 26 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, surpassing the previous record low set in 2010. In total, record lows for planted acres were set in 24 States.

Barley production is estimated at 155 million bushels, down 14 percent from 2010, and the lowest since 1936. Average yield per acre, at 69.2 bushels, is down 3.9 bushels from the previous year. Producers seeded 2.56 million acres in 2011, down 11 percent from last year. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 2.24 million acres, is down 9 percent from 2010, and the lowest level since 1881.